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## Drug-Free Communities

*Local Problems Require Local Solutions*

# Rules for Educating Policy Makers and the Community

Jeffrey Teitz, General Counsel, ONDCP



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# Speaking with Public Officials



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# DFC Terms & Conditions

### RESTRICTIONS ON GRANTEE LOBBYING

(c) Title 18 > Part I > Chapter 93 > Section 1913: **No part of the money appropriated by any enactment of Congress shall**, in the absence of express authorization by Congress, **be used directly or indirectly to pay for** any personal service, advertisement, telegram, telephone, letter, printed or written matter, or other device, **intended or designed to influence** in any manner a **Member of Congress, a jurisdiction, or any official of any government, to favor, adopt, or oppose, by vote or otherwise, any legislation, law, ratification, policy, or appropriation**, whether before or after the introduction of any bill, measure, or resolution proposing such legislation, law, ratification, policy, or appropriation.



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Abuse  
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# Education vs. Lobbying/Political Advocacy

- Education
  - Facts about the drug problems in your community and DFC approaches to prevention
  - Evidence-based information about the effects of illicit substances
  - Actions the community should take to address these issues
- Lobbying/Political Advocacy
  - Urging Government officials to support /oppose legislation or appropriations
  - Urging the public to support or oppose political positions
  - DFC Grantees are **legally prohibited** from using Federal Funds for lobbying or political advocacy



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# DFCs Can Educate Government Officials About:

- Who you are;
- What you do;
- The issues impacting your community;
- Your local data;
- What the coalition is doing to address these issues; and
- Your success and outcomes



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# DFCs Cannot Talk to Government Officials About:

- Supporting;
- Opposing;
- Passing;
- Voting Yes;
- Voting No;
- Voting against;

**On any legislation, ballot initiatives, referendums, etc.**



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# Speaking with Government Officials

“Hello Representative. I know that you are interested in substance abuse prevention generally, and specifically marijuana, so I wanted to share some information with you that you might not be aware of:

“Medical” marijuana states are clustered at the top of the list in terms of drug addiction and abuse among 12-17 year olds;

A NIDA-funded study shows that early persistent use of marijuana by youth can cause a permanent drop in IQ of as much as 8 points.”



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# Speaking with Government Officials

## PROPER

**Education:** “If I can provide you with any additional information please let me know.”

## NOT PROPER

**Political Advocacy/Lobbying:** “Based on this information, I urge you to vote against “medical” marijuana legislation”



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Local/Tribal  
Government



Substance  
Abuse  
Organizations





## Drug-Free Communities

# Speaking with the Community



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Government



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Abuse  
Organizations



# Educating the Community vs. Political Advocacy

- The same line between appropriate education and inappropriate political advocacy applies when speaking to members of the community
- You should be **educating** the community with **facts**, you should not be asking the community to influence legislation



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# Drug-Free Communities

## PROPER

### BUILD STRONG, HEALTHY YOUTH Prioritize Prevention!

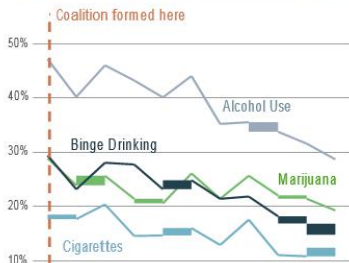


Effective substance abuse prevention reduces youth alcohol and drug use, improves academic outcomes, and builds stronger, healthier youth.

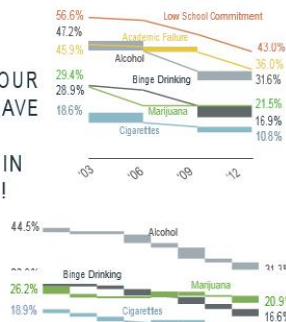


The last few decades of research have shown us what really works in prevention...

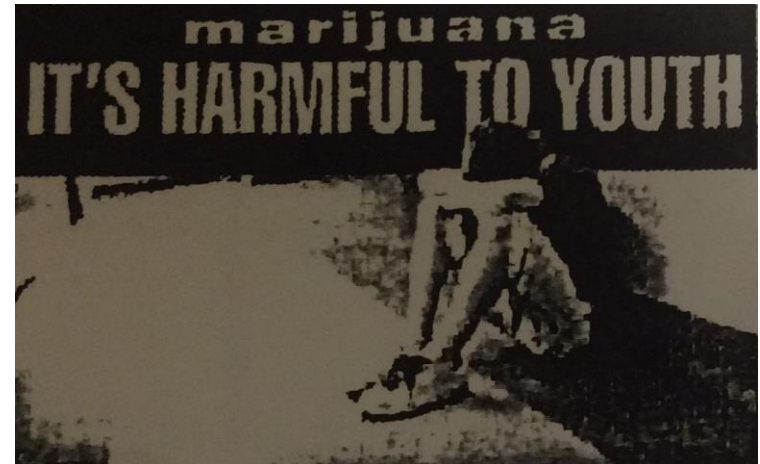
#### PREVENTION HAS REDUCED YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY...



...AND OUR  
KIDS HAVE  
DONE  
BETTER IN  
SCHOOL!



## QUESTIONABLE



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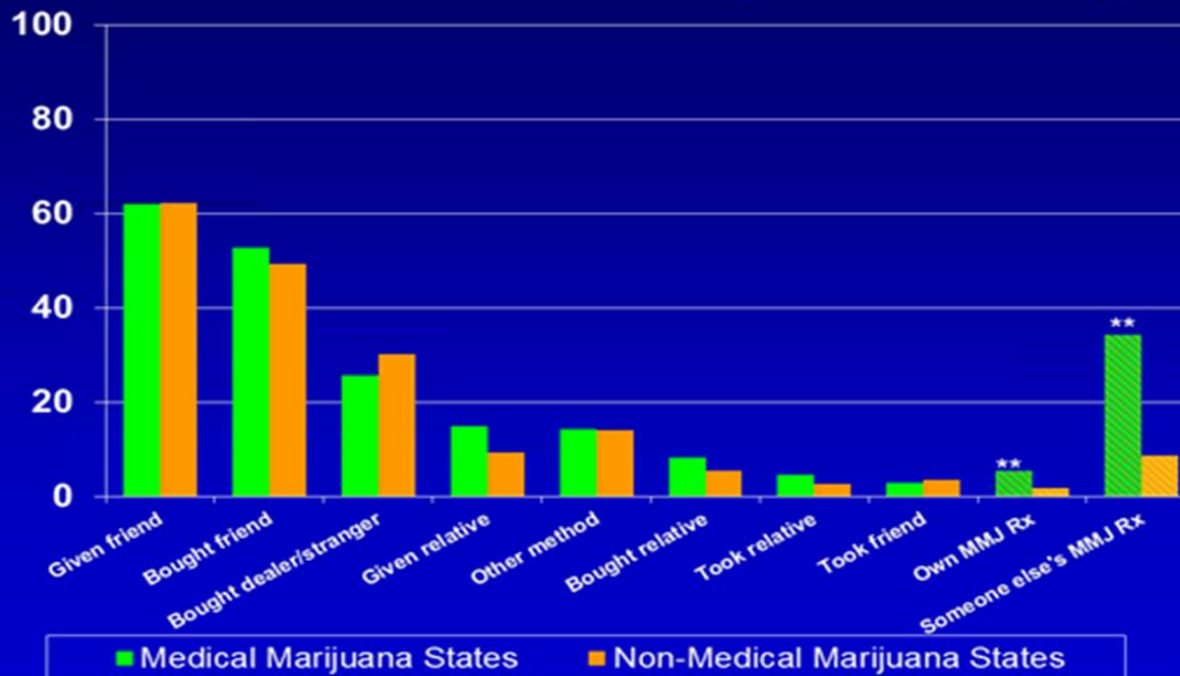
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## Drug-Free Communities

### PROPER

#### Source of Marijuana\* among 12<sup>th</sup> Graders in 2012 and 2013, by State Policy



\*Categories not mutually exclusive  
\*\* Statistically significant difference

SOURCE: University of Michigan, 2013 Monitoring the Future Study



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# Context, Timing, and Motivation Matter



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Local/Tribal  
Government



Substance  
Abuse  
Organizations





# Context, Timing and Motivation Matter

- Must consider timing, circumstance and the intent of the sponsor
- How will your message be perceived by the voters?
- In a ballot initiative the public becomes the legislators, and DFCs should not be using Federal Funds to influence how they vote
- Messages targeted to voters several weeks prior to a ballot initiative are likely to be perceived as political advocacy



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State/  
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### QUESTIONABLE

FACTS ABOUT MARIJUANA  
**MARIJUANA IS NOT AN APPROVED MEDICINE**

Medicines in the United States are  
approved by the Food & Drug  
Administration, not popular vote



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Local/Tribal  
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Substance  
Abuse  
Organizations





# Summary

- Education vs. Lobbying/Political Advocacy
  - Know the difference!!
- DFC Grantees are **legally prohibited** from using Federal dollars for lobbying/political advocacy
- The prohibition includes work done by key personnel paid with Federal dollars.
- These limitations do not apply to you as an individual on your own time
- Misuse of funds can harm your coalition



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Volunteer  
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Religious/  
Fraternal  
Organizations



Healthcare  
Professionals



State/  
Local/Tribal  
Government



Substance  
Abuse  
Organizations